7th August 1929]

A.—As required by rule 2 (*b*) of the Reservation of Bills rules the Madras University (Amendment) Bill was reserved by His Excellency the Governor for the consideration of the Governor-General. The
71s Government of India have taken the view that the reference to the Indian Universities Act, 1904, in clause 2 (ii) (*e*) of the Bill is not in order as that Act has ceased to be in operation so far as the Madras University is concerned. It is therefore proposed to return the Bill to the Legislative Council for further consideration under section 81-A (2) (*a*) of the Government of India Act with suitable amendments.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know when this Bill is proposed to be brought to this Council for further consideration ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe it will be on 9th of this month."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether I can put a question to you, Sir, on the point ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member can come to me in my room and put the question. He cannot do it now."

Prevention of smoking in schools and colleges.

* 62 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a summary of the reports received from the Director of Public Instruction regarding the effect of his circular of 1925 in preventing smoking in schools and colleges ?

A.—A copy of the circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction in 1925 was placed on the table in answer to question No. 1528 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1928. Reports as to the effect of the circular were received from 24 District Educational Officers, the Inspector of European Schools and Principals of forty-six colleges. The majority of reports were stereotyped and were to the effect—

(i) that the circular was put into force ;

(ii) that there was no difficulty in putting it into force ; and

(iii) that the circular had been instrumental in varying degrees in checking the habit of smoking by students in school premises and play-grounds. In a few cases it was reported—

(*i*) that though smoking in college premises and on play-grounds had been greatly checked, smoking 'on the sly' was still going on outside ;

(*ii*) that home influence and moral persuasion would prove more effective in checking the evil than anything that could be done by school authorities ; and

(*iii*) that occasional lectures by doctors who were specialists on the subject would be beneficial.

[7th August 1929

The general conclusion to be drawn from the reports is that smoking is not much in evidence in school and college premises and on play-grounds and that smoking outside is not widespread except in the Telugu districts, parts of Coimbatore, Malabar and the Nilgiris.

Prevention of smoking in schools and colleges.

* 62-A Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a summary of the reports and other information received regarding the effect of the circular of the Director of Public Instruction along with a copy of the circular regarding prevention of smoking in schools?"

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 62.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"In view of the answer given in item (iii) and also the recommendations made, may I know whether in view of the fact that smoking outside the school does exist to a large extent in the Telugu districts and one of the recommendations—the third is 'that occasional lectures by doctors who were specialists on the subject would be beneficial'. May I know if any arrangements have been made for such lectures in the Telugu districts as are referred to in the answer?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"Not yet."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether Government propose to make such provision early?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"It depends on the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction has been asked to give his opinion on this subject and to make any recommendations?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"As I said, he will make the recommendations he thinks necessary."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether Government have asked him to make any recommendations?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"The proposals are to emanate from the Director of Public Instruction."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know whether Government will issue instructions to teachers to give moral education to students including the evils of smoking?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I believe it has already been done."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister will ask the Director of Public Instruction to send up proposals?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"The Director will send it of his own accord."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know whether smoking is prevalent among school-boys in Coimbatore?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I am not acquainted with the topography of the Coimbatore district as much as the hon. Member."